

The Green Pea Pirates

By PETER B. KYNE

Author of "Webster—Map's Man," "The Valley of the Giants," Etc.

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(Continued from page nine) gating officer. "I don't see any distress signals flyin' an' yet she's got an anchor out while her canvas is bangin' so-so."

"If she had any hands aboard, you'd think they'd have sense enough to clew up her courses," the mate answered.

At this juncture, Mr. Gibney and McGuffey, unable to restrain their curiosity, and forgetful of the fact that they were pirates with very sore feet, came running over the deck and invaded the pilot house. "Gimme that glass, you sock-eyed salmon, you," Gibney ordered Scraggs, and tore the telescope from the owner's hands. "Hum—um! American bark Chosapeake. Starboard anchor out; yards braced a-box; royal an' top-gallant'sails clewed up; courses hangin' in the buntlines an' clew garnets, Stars-an'-Stripes upside down."

He lowered the glass and roared at Neils Halvorsen, who was at the wheel. "Starboard your helm, Square-head. Don't be afraid of her. We're goin' over there an' hook on to her. I should say she is a piek-up!"

Mr. Gibney had abdicated as a pirate and assumed command of the S. S. Maggie. With the memory of a scant breakfast upon him, however, Captain Scraggs was still harsh and bitter.

"Git out o' my pilot house an' aft where the police can find you when they come lookin' for you," he screeched. "Don't you give no orders to my deckhand!"

"Stow it, you ass. Yonder's a prize, but it'll require imagination to win it; consequently you need Adelbert P. Gibney in your business, if you're contemp'tin' hookin' on to that bark, snakin' her into San Francisco bay, an' libelin' her for ten thousand dollars' salvage. You an' Mac an' The Square-head here have sailed this strip o' coast too long together to quarrel over the first good piece o' salvage we ever run into. Come, Scraggsy, be decent, forget the past, an' let's dig in together."

The new navigating officer drew Captain Scraggs aside and whispered in his ear: "Make it up with these Smart Alecks, Scraggs. They got it on us, but if we can send you an' Halvorsen, McGuffey and Gibney over to the bark, you can get some sail on her an' what with the wind helpin' us along, the Maggie can tow her all right."

Mr. Gibney saw by the hopeful, even cunning, look that leaped to Scraggs' eyes that the problem was about to be solved without recourse to the Gibney imagination, so he resolved to be alert and not permit himself to be caught out on the end of a limb. "Well, Scraggsy?" he demanded.

"I guess I need you in my business, Gib. You're right an' I'm always wrong. It's a fact, I ain't got no more imagination than a chicken."

"Speaks like a man—I do not think, Scraggs, for once in my life I have you where the hair is short. I'm willin' to dig in an' help out in a pinch, but it's gettin' so me an' Mac can't trust you no more. We're that leery of you we won't take your word for nothin', since you fooled him on the new boiler an' me on the paint; consequently, we're off you an' this salvage job unless you give us a clearance, an' we're statin' that we are not an' never was pirates, that we're good, law-abidin' citizens an' aboard the Maggie as your guests, takin' the trip at our own risk. When you sign such a paper, with your crew for witnesses, I'll demonstrate how that bark can be salvaged. My imagination's better'n my reputation, Scraggsy, an' I ain't workin' it for nothin'!"

"Gib, my dear boy. You're the most sensitive man I ever sailed with. Can't you take a little joke?"

"Sure, I can take a little joke. It's the big ones that stick in my craw an' stifle my friendship. Gimme a fountain pen an' a leaf out o' the log book an' I'll draw up the affidavit for your signature."

Scraggs complied precipitately with this request, whereupon Mr. Gibney spread his great bulk over the chart case and with many a twist and flip of his tongue on the up and down strokes, produced this remarkable document:

"At Sen. Off Point Montara, aboard S. S. Maggie, of San Francisco, June 4, 19—

"This is to certify that A. P. Gibney, Esq., and Bart McGuffey, Esq., in law-abidin' sittings of the U. S. A. and the constitution thereof, and in no way pirates or such; and be it further resolved that the said parties hereto are aboard said American steamer Maggie this date on the special invite of Phineas P. Scraggs, owner, as his guests and at their own risk."

"Witness my hand and seal." Captain Scraggs signed without reading and the new mate and Neils Halvorsen appended their signatures as witnesses. Mr. Gibney thereupon folded this clearance paper into the thinnest possible compact ball, wrapped it in a piece of tinfoil torn from a package of tobacco, to protect it from his saliva, tucked it in his cheek and with a sign for McGuffey to follow

him, started crawling over the cargo aft. By this time the Maggie was within a hundred yards of the distressed bark and was ratcheting slowly backward and forward before her.

"In all my born days," quoth Mr. Gibney, speaking a trifle thickly because of the document in his mouth, "I never got such a wallop as Scraggs handed me an' you last night. I don't forget things like that in a hurry. Now that we got a vindication of the charge of piracy again us, I'm achin' to get shied of the Maggie an' her crew; so if you'll kindly peel off all of your clothes with the exception, say, of your underdrawers, we'll swim off to that bark an' give Phineas P. Scraggs an exhibition of real sailorizin' an' seamanship."

"What's the big idee?" McGuffey demanded cautiously.

"Why, we sail her in ourselves—me an' you an' glom all the salvage for ourselves. T'ell with Scraggs an' the Maggie an' that new mate an' engineer, I'm off'n 'em for life."

Pop-eyed with excitement and interest, B. McGuffey, Esquire, stood up and with a single twist shed his cap and coat. His shirt, already minus their shoes and socks. To slip out of their faded drawers was the work of an instant. Strapping their belts around their waists to hold up their drawers, the worthy pair stepped to the rail of the Maggie.

"Hey, there? Where you goin', Gib? I give you that clearance paper on condition that you was to tell me how to salvage that there bark."

"I'm just about to tell you, Scraggs. You don't touch a thing aboard the Maggie. You leave her out of it entirely. You just jump overboard, like me an' Mac will in a jiffy, swim over to the bark, climb aboard, and sail her in to San Francisco bay. When you get there you drop anchor an' call it a day's work." He grinned broadly.

"One of these bright days, Scraggs, when me an' Mac is just wallerin' in salvage money, drop around to see us an' we'll give you a kick in the face, 'farewell, you boob,' and he dove overboard.

"Tata," McGuffey cried in his tantalizing falsetto voice, and followed his leader into the briny deep.

BRECKENRIDGE

Last Friday St. Louis was added to Breckenridge's list of football victims by a score of 6 to 0. This makes six victories, one tie, and no defeats for the team.

The ladies of the O. E. S. served one of their famous suppers at their hall Friday evening. After supper dancing was enjoyed by the younger set.

The Sophomores entertained the "Freshies" at a party in the basement of the Cong'l church Friday evening. John Allen and wife and Mrs. Ben Callison of Wheeler were visitors in town Saturday.

Alfred Sexton, who is attending school at The Ferris Institute at Big Rapids, was home over the week end.

Fourteen ladies of the Congregational church motored to Alma last Wednesday and enjoyed a pot luck dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Hopkins.

Frank King and wife of Alma spent the day Saturday here with relatives. Mrs. Stanley Bailey and baby boy spent the day Thursday in Alma with her sister, Mrs. J. Barkman.

Miss Margaret Drake, a student at Albion College, spent a few days this week with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. W. M. Drake.

The ladies of the Eastern Star were pleasantly entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Myers on Thursday evening.

Mr. O. G. Colthrop has purchased of Floyd Smith the property known as the Henry Allen house.

Mrs. Laura Kersh will entertain the W. C. T. U. at her home on Thursday afternoon at two o'clock.

Dan McCall has moved his family into their new home on Second st.

The second number of the Citizen's Lecture Course will be the Sterling Male Quartette at the Methodist church next Saturday evening, November 19.

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ELECTRICAL Equipment

because we are giving a further reduction of 25 per cent on our already reduced prices. No matter what you want we have it or can get it on short notice at the right price.

ALMA ELECTRIC and BATTERY CO.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Smith have moved into a part of Mr. Henry's house.

SUMNER

R. M. Forquer was in Ithaca on business Monday.

Charles Perry and D. J. Agers were in Carson City on business Monday.

Mr. Cook transacted business in Battle Creek Monday.

Ellis Ayers was in Carson City on business Tuesday.

W. Miller of Riverdale was a guest of Vance Woodard the first of the week.

Mrs. F. E. Clemathan and son were in Alma on business the first of the week.

Scott Horn made a business trip to Alma Tuesday.

A. Wagner of Alma was here Tuesday on business for the telephone company.

Charles Black and son, Lyle, were in Lansing on business Tuesday.

Mr. Pease left Tuesday for his home at Cedar Springs.

A number of Sumner hunters left Wednesday morning for Houghton lake on a few days' hunting trip.

Mrs. Tracy Stoffs and sons, William and Jack, were in Carson City Thursday shopping.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Connorton are receiving congratulations on the birth of a granddaughter.

All who attended the Envelope social Friday evening report a good time.

Charles Black and wife and Peter Kleese and wife attended the Pomona Grange at Newark Saturday.

Frank Hicks and family of Ferris were week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stafford and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith were in Ithaca Saturday on business.

Ellis Ayers of Sumner and Mrs. Tracy Stoffs were quietly married at Ithaca on Saturday, November 12.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Forquer entertained friends from Wheeler Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Day of Midland were Sunday guests at the home of his sister, Mrs. Jessie Leonard.

Mrs. Marjorie Seaman was home from Alma over the week end.

Rev. Cotterall's subject at the church services Sunday evening, November 20, will be "The Holy City."

CITY COMMISSION

Alma, Michigan, November 15, 1921 Regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Alma in session at the council chambers on above date.

Meeting called to order at 8 o'clock p. m. by Vice Mayor John C. Chick.

Present—Commissioners Crueser, Glass and Archer.

Absent—Mayor Murphy.

There being a quorum present the commission was declared in session.

Minutes of the preceding regular meeting were read and approved.

Reading of bills and claims:

American Railway Exp. Co.	\$ 6.31
Alma Elevator Co.	1.00
Ann Arbor Railway Co.	5.97
H. Channon Co.	63.21
Cent. Mich. Light & Power Co.	.58
A. W. Cross	2.00
Home Lumber & Fuel Co.	35.72
The M. C. Lilley Co.	1.01
Little Rock Coal Co.	3.40
J. M. Montigel & Son	.55
H. Mueller Mfg. Co.	79.74
Standard Oil Co.	69.90
G. VanNorman	24.00
G. P. Shong	24.00
J. Graves	13.00
O. J. Parker	16.80
J. Huntley	18.00
E. A. Dwyer	6.00
V. Wiley	13.50
F. King	3.00
D. Howe	32.40
J. Howe	15.90
A. Eicher	6.00
J. Cross	10.60
M. L. Stinecomb	7.50
J. Wilson	8.75
E. Landon	30.75
E. Darnell	14.25
L. Helms	1.25
L. Chestnut	4.60
H. Voller	36.00

V. Lowe	31.50
E. C. Hasse	31.50
H. Faught	1.80
L. Andre	5.00
C. Williams	5.00
F. N. Grover	35.60
R. Schieb	35.00
H. Faught	13.20
B. Williams	29.50
J. Lutz	18.00
J. D. Spinney	213.00
C. F. Mobley	10.05
M. E. Moore	40.00
Look-Paterson Drug Co.	36.88
E. A. Church	117.50

Moved by Commissioner Archer and supported by Commissioner Glass that the above bills as read covered by Vouchers 466 to 482 be allowed and the clerk instructed to issue checks in payment thereof. The vote was as follows:

Ayes—Vice Mayor J. C. Chick, Commissioners Glass and Archer.

Nays—Commissioner Crueser.

Gas Report for the Week

Nov. 10—A. M. 512.60, P. M. 537.12
Nov. 11—A. M. 516.47, P. M. 533.53
Nov. 12—A. M. 526.43, P. M. 529.66
Nov. 13—P. M. 523.53, Nov. 14—A. M. 546.20, P. M. 545.46, Nov. 15—A. M. 539.54, P. M. 563.71. Average for period 537.18. The Public Utilities Commission requires an average of 546.

Moved by Commissioner Archer, supported by Commissioner Glass that the Commission adjourn. The motion prevailed.

John C. Chick, Acting Mayor.

Francis C. Hayward, Clerk.

Money spent with us buys not only good coal but satisfaction and reliability as well. Brown-Ward Co., phone 27.—60tfc

CARS RENTED

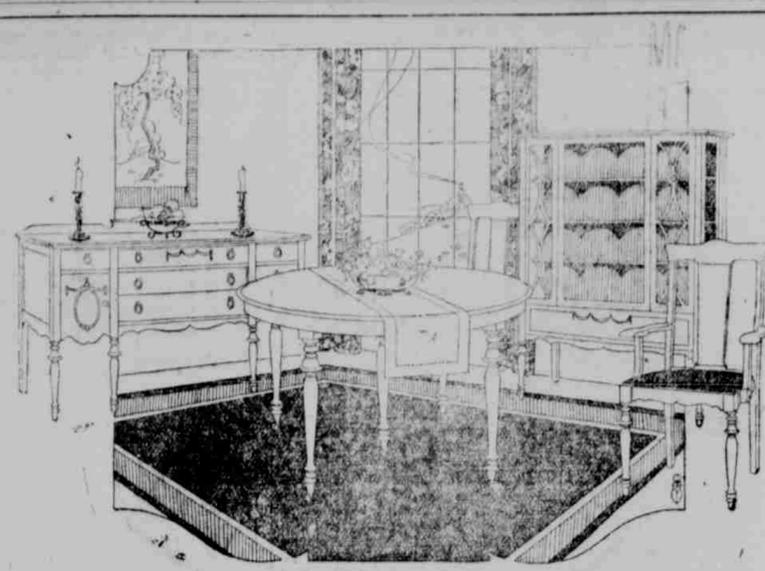
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PHONE 18

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Are the kind you will be proud to possess.

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Boys' Suits \$7.45

Boys' Mackinaws \$6.45

All wool two-pant Suits in many new patterns for winter at this low price. Record breakers!

Best all wool Mackinaws in bright, new dress patterns. Ages 6 to 17. Supreme values.

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Men's heavy corn ribbed Union Suits, all sizes, at each	1.25	Men's heavy knit Sox, tan or gray, per pair only	15c	Men's Knit Sport Coats, sport model, assorted heathers	4.95
Men's ribbed Shirts or Drawers, corn or gray, all sizes, each	75c	Men's gray Flannel Shirts, sizes 11 to 17, each	1.45	Men's All Weather Corduroy Pants, pair	3.45
Men's dark Oxford Sweater Coats, all sizes, each	1.45	Wonderful values in all wool Flannel Shirts, four colors each	2.95	Blue Chambray Work Shirts, sizes 14 to 17, our leader	65c

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